

Update on LPN-C and the new LPN Law May 2017

LB 88 and LPN-C

- Signed into law by the Governor on April 25, 2017, with an emergency clause (which means enacted immediately)
- Repeals existing LPN-C statute (now only LPN license is necessary for IV therapy*)
- LPN-C exams will no longer be administered in Nebraska effective immediately
- The 'LPN-C' credential will be retired, there will be no need to renew the LPN-C credential in October.
- Regulations will be put into effect over the next several months to more effectively implement the changes in the new law

Provisions:

- *LPNs who are currently permitted to provide IV therapy
 - Those who hold or have held a LPN-C license
 - Graduates from an approved Nebraska program of practical nursing after May 1, 2016
 - Currently licensed LPNs who complete an 8-hour didactic course in IV therapy (content peripheral IVs, central lines, and legal aspects) **AND** an approved employer-specific IV therapy skills course
- Not all LPNs will elect to do IV therapy, but must complete the 8 hour didactic course in IV therapy to maintain their license (given 5 years to complete course)

Employment

- This change is based on a competency model. The Board of Nursing recognizes that most employers evaluate competency to practice at the time of hire, periodically and annually. If an employer utilizes LPN's to perform IV skills, then IV skills **MUST** be included in those competencies.
- Not all employers will include IV therapy in the LPN skill set, as they may restrict practice via facility policies. However, for those employers who elect to expand the current competencies of their LPN workforce to include IV therapy, this law provides a means to do so.
- The Board of Nursing will develop an outline for skills lab course requirements.

Didactic Courses in IV Therapy

- An 8-hour minimum
- Must include legal aspects of IV therapy, content on central and peripheral IV lines
- Provided by a variety of modalities, such as online or live

Approved Employer-specific IV therapy skills course

- Board of Nursing will develop guidelines and approve skills competency courses
- Should include IV starts, care and maintenance of peripheral IVs, care and maintenance of central lines

What does this mean for me?

Current LPN-C's

- The credential 'LPN-C' will no longer be used. LPN's that have been previously licensed as LPN-C's have fulfilled all of the requirements for didactic and skills training.
 - At the time of renewal, he/she will indicate having held a LPN-C license and provide that previous license number.
- Graduates from an approved Nebraska program of practical nursing after May 1, 2016 have fulfilled all of the requirements for didactic and skills training.
- If a nurse completed the LPN-C course, but did not take the state exam, the course content will meet the requirements to practice IV therapy; evidence of this course completion will be required at the time of licensure renewal.

Current LPN's

- All **MUST** take an 8-hour didactic course covering the legal aspects of IV therapy, peripheral IVs and central lines to maintain LPN licensure in NE; evidence of completion must be submitted at license renewal; 5 years are allowed to meet this requirement.
- If a nurse wishes to add IV therapy to current practice, in addition to the 8-hour didactic requirement, he/she must complete an approved employer-specific IV therapy skills course and maintain employer competency to do so.
- Graduates from an approved Nebraska program of practical nursing after May 1, 2016 have completed all of the requirements for didactic and skills training.
- Any currently licensed LPN who has not provided evidence of completing the 8-hour didactic course **by October 31, 2021**, will not be able to continue active practice in Nebraska or renew the LPN license.

New graduate LPN's

- If a nurse has graduated from an approved PN program in Nebraska after May 1, 2016, submission of the program transcript will provide evidence of IV therapy education upon licensure.

LPN's seeking a license in Nebraska by Endorsement (coming from other states)

- The endorsement application will ask for evidence of having completed IV therapy education commensurate with the new requirements in Nebraska. If none exist, an 8-hour didactic course will be required prior to licensure; and if electing to practice IV therapy, a skills course would be required as noted above.

Nursing Education Programs/Community Colleges/Current LPN-C Course Sites

- The current LPN-C course can still be taught, however, students will NOT take a state administered exam to license.
- The current course IS a great preparation for LPNs to enter into providing IV therapy, but is above the 8-hour didactic requirement in the new law.
- The current course provides both extensive didactic AND skills competencies.

- Programs might consider creating two shorter courses – one targeting the 8-hour didactic content and one designed to meet an approved employer-specific IV therapy skills course.
- Live or online education programs can be offered.

Employers

- The goal of LB 88 is to allow all LPNs to provide IV therapy, but for a period of 5 years, not all LPNs will be prepared at the same competency level. In order to establish baseline competency, the Board of Nursing will provide guidelines for IV therapy skills, which can be customized to your facility policies.
- Ideally, every LPN who is employed at your facility should be competency evaluated at hire and periodically for skills *including IV therapy*.
- There is a provision for LPNs who elect not to provide IV therapy (meaning their employer does not require it as part of their job) to maintain a PN license, simply by completing a mandatory IV therapy 8-hour didactic course, which counts as part of annual continuing education to maintain a license. This course **MUST** be completed **prior to October 31, 2021**, in order for a Practical Nurse to maintain an active Nebraska license.